

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 14, 2004. New claims 25-26 have been added. Thus, claims 1-26 are now pending.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Hirata. This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 as amended requires “a side light shielding layer for covering at least a portion of a side surface of the thin film transistor, wherein the side light shielding layer is substantially vertically oriented.” For example and without limitation, Figs. 2-3 of the instant application illustrate a light shielding layer 23 which is vertically oriented, and which covers at least a portion of a side surface of a transistor.

Hirata fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined aspect of claim 1. In particular, element 7 of Hirata (alleged by the Examiner to be a light shield) is *horizontally* oriented, not “substantially vertically oriented” as required by claim 1. Thus, it can be seen that Hirata fails to disclose or suggest a side light shielding layer which covers at least a portion of a side surface of a transistor, where the side light shielding layer is *substantially vertically oriented* as called for in claim 1. Hirata is entirely unrelated to the invention of claim 1 in this respect.

Claims 19 and 26 also require that the side light shielding layer is substantially vertically oriented. Again, Hirata fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of these claims.

Claim 25 requires “a side light shielding layer for covering at least a portion of a side Surface of the thin film transistor, wherein in an area of the transistor the side light shielding layer is provided along and directly contacts sidewalls of first, second and third insulating films which are deposited in different steps.” Hirata fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of claim 25.

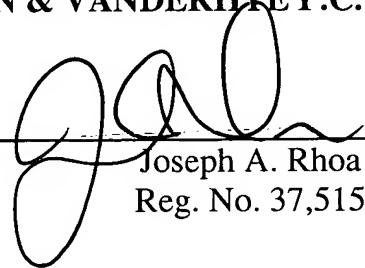
UEDA et al
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For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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